

Top of the Hill

Volume 7, Number 2

MBA Junior School

January 2002

Yes, Mr. Miyagi

By Michael Schuller

In 1968 Mr. Cecil T. Patterson formally established the U.S. Eastern Wado Kai Federation. Before establishing the USEWF, Mr. Patterson trained in Japan under Sensei Kazuro Sakura, one of the few ranking people directly under Master Ohtsuka, the founder of Wado Ryu Karate. When he established the USEWF Mr. Patterson also created a school known as the House of Bushido, the first Wado Ryu school in the U.S. In this school many people enrolled, including Mr. Taylor Hayden. Mr. Hayden earned a Bachelor's Degree in mechanical engineering in 1970 from Vanderbilt University. After

working for Gates and Armstrong Tire Company and teaching at Volunteer State Community College, where he personally developed the karate program, he established and built the Taylor Hayden Karate Center. It is at that school where I take karate.

I started karate in the second grade, though my older brother had already started at the school, going to class twice a week. I was in the children's beginner class which was mostly other white belts and gold belts. (My brother was in the class ahead of that; he had already been in karate for several years.) The first two days were "trial courses" taken so that

I could see if I liked karate. Needless to say, I did.

Things started out pretty basic; I learned different punches and blocks, all of which I caught onto quickly. We also learned how to do these techniques while moving across the room. Then after a few weeks, I learned something called *kata*. *Kata* involved the moves I had learned, but this time it involved moving and turning. After about a month of learning *kata* and doing everything else, we had one class during which there was a "stripe exam." This involved running as much as you could of your *kata* in front of one of the instructors to see how much you could do. If you knew enough you got a

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Secret To Success: Pure Luck

By Andrew Davis

Well, market-savvy folks, all I can really tell you is that the main reason Will Camarata and I won is, well, as the title suggests, pure luck. There was some skill involved, however. This skill included knowledge of the company's products and also when splits would take place. For instance, when Tony Hawk 3 was introduced, Activision's stock raised by 5+ points. When Microsoft introduced the new operating system, Windows XP, the stock did not rise much because the new operating



All that money must have gone to their heads

system was not popular yet and not very "anticipated." Will and I also took large risks. These risks included

investing in all tech stocks and also buying random stocks. The random stocks did not do so well, just to tell you. In fact, we could have beaten the people who claimed first prize if we had not bought random stocks. One pointer: NEVER go into negatives in money. When I found out that I had a negative balance, I tried to sell some portions of stocks to get myself back into the positives, and that hurt Will and me.

We cannot tell you our winning secrets because we have sworn each other to secrecy. That concludes my report. Happy investing!

FEATURES

Tommy Corts: Actor Extraordinaire

By the Staff

Tommy Corts has been involved in acting at camps, commercials, school, and plays since about sixth grade. In sixth grade, he got a principal part in a commercial for Nashville Mitsubishi/Volkswagen. You

may have seen him on television in this commercial two years ago and gotten tired of the last line, "You may drive too far, or pay too much or go further for service, or . . ."

Since this commercial, he gained many new nicknames such as, commercial boy, Mitsubishi boy, Volkswagen boy, and (he does not know how this one came into existence) Nissan boy. Some, like John Fay, have told him, "Me and my friends, whenever we saw you on TV, said that if we ever met you, we would beat you up." Fortunately, this did not happen. He has also been in a United States Armed Forces commercial, but, unless you get the Armed Forces Network, you will not have seen him. He has also been in camps over the summer. After sixth and seventh grade, he went to a camp called Stageworks



Night's Dream and played Demetrius. Last summer, he was in a camp in St. Louis for stage combat. At Overbrook, his former school, he participated in forensics and performed the graveyard scene from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *Cinderella's Rat* by Susan Meddaugh, and *Sick* by Sheil Silverstein.

A few weeks ago, he performed in a Stageworks fundraiser, *Starr, Starry Night*, where as the narrator, he performed along with many adult singers and special guest star, Pam Tillis. At MBA, he was recently in the play, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* directed by the theatre (notice English spelling) teacher, Mr. Morrison.

Acting has been fun for him, and he would not trade it for the world. Don't miss a Tommy Corts performance! We shall all enjoy following his acting career.



Academy for Performing Arts. After sixth grade, he acted and sang in a musical review of Rogers and Hammerstein. After seventh grade, he performed *A Midsummer*

?!?!?!

During lunch, an odd specimen appeared on the tray of one the two Eric B's (most likely the one who buys his lunch). Fearing food poisoning, he did not eat it . . . but, as a curious observer of the outside world, he wonders what he might have unfortunately eaten.

For the title of weirdest object found in lunch . . . the candidates . . . please . . .

- An incredible albino excrement
- What you really got from eBay when you bid \$1.00 for a PS2
- The first snowflake of the season
- The last remaining piece of Oprah Winfrey's derriere given to us by time travelers from the future
- Modern art
- Rice from Oak Ridge
- The new prototype for a Chia pet
- One of the many worthless products that you can buy on Nickelodeon.com
- The other, other white meat
- The reason G-d made shells on eggs
- The poster child for bulimics
- Vanilla Ice (a.k.a. just a worthless piece of white junk)

For those of you who doubt the words of Nostradamus, think that aliens are the people who sell you bus tickets, so they can support their visa, and that ghosts are a quirk of the English language to have second graders miss a word on their spelling test, we offer the hypothesis that this foreign matter is merely a ball of rice glued together . . . but the question still arises: what sticky adhesive substance binds this . . . *thing* . . . together? Please submit your opinion at Bader-Beiter corner.



FEATURES

Lord of the Stinks

By Alex Holt

I have never had a better nap in my life. I spent the first half-hour wondering when Liv Tyler would appear and trying to figure out if Frodo is spelled with one "d" or two. After all of the great reviews that this movie received, I thought that it might be a little more interesting. Maybe the critics needed some sleep. When Liv Tyler showed up as an elf or something, I was disappointed because she was not half as attractive as she was in *One Night At McCool's*. I was astonished. What a waste of... acting.

Another thing that baffled me was Frodo's character. I have never read the book, but I hope that J.R.R. Tolkien did not want Frodo to seem as helpless and weak as he was in the movie. Every time The Fellowship ran into a group of monsters or fiends, Frodo got stabbed. Even when he was wearing that chain vest, he was out for the count.

Although the movie was dreadfully boring, there were a few good parts: that elf with the bow and arrow was cool because he was a good fighter, although he did not get enough credit along with the dwarf with the ax. I would be able to say their names if they were any less than eight syllables. Also, the big jacked monster guy at the end was awesome. He reminds me of myself in a way...

Overall on a scale of one to ten, I give this movie a three for lack of enough attractive women and too many weird names. If you liked this

movie, you probably liked *Driven*, but at least that had Gina Gershon.

P.S. Justin is going to say that it is good, but he is wrong because I am better at guitar.



Does this look like Alex to you?

Lord of the Bling-Bling

By Justin Hall

First of all, Alex Holt is an awful movie critic. Secondly, the first of the "book to movie" conversions was great. I cannot wait for the next two. The movie *The Fellowship of the Ring* is the best movie I have ever seen. The reviews that real movie critics (a.k.a. not Alex Holt) gave this movie are completely accurate. This movie was one of the best in a very long time.

The beginning of the movie was not exciting, but it did stay very true to the novel. That was one thing I like best about this movie: how closely it followed the novel. Back to the subject... When the Nazgul, the balck

riders, appear, the action heats up. As they are following Frodo, Sam, Pippin, and Merry (all two syllables or less, Alex), the special effects are really interesting. And so what if Frodo gets stabbed a few times, he is an integral character. And in the Mines of Moria, the action and special effects really soar. The troll and Balrog (the cool fire guy with a whip) look almost real. Also, Legolas the elf (three syllables), and Gimli (two syllables) really shine in this scene. Legolas shoots with perfect accuracy, and Gimli is just cool.

When The Fellowship gets to the Enchanted Forest, the details on the trees and walkways are amazing. The scenery is beautiful, combined with the lovely houses of the elves, making the setting almost breathtaking.

The last fighting scene is definitely the best. The Goblins are done very well; they look natural. The head goblin is definitely one of the coolest guys in the movie, and he in no way resembles Alex. (And I mean in NO way.) The head orc is a great fighter though, and (sorry to spoil it) kills a member of the fellowship.

Overall, this movie is a 9.75 because I believe that no movie can attain a perfect 10 (though this one comes really, really close).



Whoa! You have a really big big toe!

KARATE from page 1

stripe. (It was really a piece of electrical tape.) We did this every month, and every month we had to know more and more of the kata. After you got five stripes, you were ready to go up for your next belt. For me it was my gold belt. When I was told I was going up for my next belt, I was relieved to learn that the exam was held at Taylor Hayden Karate Center, so the setting would be familiar. The belt exam ran like class; at the beginning, we did the punches, kicks, and blocks, lined up by rank. Then we did the moves as we stepped forward. When that was done, we all lined up against one wall and were called forward individually to run our kata. Each group of belts (i.e. gold, orange, etc.) was critiqued by an adult black belt. After several people went, it was my turn. Nervously I got up and stepped forward into attention stance. "Rei!" The black belt gave me the command to bow. I bowed and moved to ready stance. "Kihon Kata," I said, naming the kata. "Go," I was told. I ran the kata. When I was finished, I stepped forward to the black belt, and he told me that I had run my kata well and gave me some tips for improvement and told me to sit back down. When all of the other students finished, we lined up in the center of the room and were given our belts. We had all passed, but more importantly, I had passed.

"Kihon Kata," I said, naming the kata.

This pattern was repeated as I went up through the ranks. The katas got harder and longer with more complicated moves. I got better at my stances and the techniques. After gold belt I got my orange belt, then my blue, then purple, then finally green. The green belt kata was the last of the basic pin-an katas I learned, and from green, I went to my third kyu brown belt and

learned kushon kyu. That kata has around one hundred moves, and it took me awhile to learn it. From there I got my second kyu belt and learned a short, but very subtle, kata, nahachi. When I reached first kyu brown belt, it was time to start preparing for my black belt.

Preparing for my black belt took about a year. In that year I practiced, refined, and practiced my katas over and over. Because I was the only one in my class preparing to get my black belt, I had to get one of my



instructors, Mr. Shutz, (who was the primary person that helped me to get my black belt) to help me perfect my kata. I also got help from my other instructor, Mr. Graves. My older brother, who has his second degree black belt, even helped me a little. Finally, after almost five years, I was ready to get my black belt.

On Saturday, October 28, 2001, I went up for my black belt exam. The exam was held at David Deaton Karate Studio. It would be the first time I had ever done karate in front of anyone, as class and the belt exams were closed to everyone except the people involved. The exam started at 1:00 P.M., but everyone got there early to get ready. When we came inside we

changed into our uniform and were assigned a number. I was number two. At one o'clock the exam began. The

I started karate in the second grade.

first thing we did was to say the pledge of allegiance. From there it ran much like a regular class, except what we did was under the scrutiny of a panel of high ranking black belts who ranged from about third to seventh degree.

As in class, we bowed at the beginning of the exam, and we lined up in two lines. We started off with punches, blocks, and kicks from a stationary stance. We went through every punch, kick, and any other move I had ever been taught. When that was over, we were divided into two groups and lined up in two rows on either end of the rectangular room. Now we were doing moves as we moved up and down the floor. The line I was in went first. We went back and forth doing more moves, again and again. When we were finished we got to rest while the other line did their moves. Then it was on to the third part of the exam: kata. I had to know every kata I had ever been taught. That took awhile, and it was tiring, and it was hard.

The only problem was that after the first two moves of pin-an yondan I blanked out. I had no idea what to do next. I got really nervous, and racked my brain for what to do next. Luckily I remembered and finished, although I had to run it again, and I did that extremely well. When we finished we sat down while the other line ran kata. I was shaking. For a second I had no idea what to do and nearly failed. Then it was the final part of the exam, sparring. We put on our pads and we were paired up. We did not have to fight for very long, but we had to demonstrate knowledge of how to use karate in a situation. It was over quickly, but it did help to relieve some of my nervous

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FEATURES

energy and to calm down. After that the exam was over. We put our pads away and lined up again. We did a standing bow, a *sensei rei, otogani rei*. (*Rei* means bow; it is something we do at the beginning and end of class.)

I had to wait until Monday, my next class, to see if I had passed. That was bad. Two whole days of "I hope I got my belt," and "what if I didn't pass," and "I really messed up that kata!" were going through my head. Finally it was Monday night. Class was almost over, and Sensei Hayden stepped out of his office and made an announcement to the class. "This past Saturday," he said, "there was a black belt exam. It was hard, and not many people passed, but someone here did, and that was Michael Schuller!" I was relieved. I stood up and got my belt from Sensei. When I did he asked to see me when I got out of class. When I sat back down I was congratulated by some of my fellow students, and Mr. Graves had me bow the class out. I left and changed out of my uniform. Then I went to see Sensei. I stepped into his office, and he congratulated me on getting my black belt, and he gave me the belt. He also gave me a card, which I could use to prove my rank. (For example, if I were in Japan, I could go into any Wado Ryu school there, show them my card, and be treated as a black belt.)

Although I finally have my black belt, this is just the beginning. I still have a lot of training ahead of me. The great part about having started as young as I did though, is that now I have my black belt, and I can start working toward higher degrees of black belt. My older brother, as I have said before is a second degree black belt, and my two triplet brothers are working toward their black belts. (They are both the same rank.) My uncle is also a black belt. Now my immediate goal is to reach second degree black belt, but I hope to eventually reach even higher.

Darwin Awards

Compiled by Jeffrey Zager, Spence Hobson, Tommy Corts, and Bobby Goodrich from the Darwin Awards book

The Darwin Awards. Why the heck are they called the Darwin Awards? For George Darwin, who thought the Pacific Ocean was the gaping hole in the Earth that the moon left when it tore away? Or maybe for



Charles Darwin who developed the theory of survival of the fittest. For whatever reason, they are named the Darwin Awards; the point of them is to give awards for funny or stupid deaths. (We all know death is not funny, but these will make you laugh.) So here are the winners for 2001:

- A young Canadian man who was searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, the concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house, with a full fire blazing. The resulting explosion and fire burned down his house, killing both him and his sister.

- Three Brazilian men were flying a light aircraft at low altitudes when another plane approached. They supposedly decided to moon the occupants of the other plane but consequently lost control of the

aircraft and crashed. They were all found dead in the wreckage with their pants around their ankles.

- A 27-year-old French woman lost control of her car on a highway near Marseilles and crashed into a tree, seriously injuring her passenger and killing herself. This incident would not have been even considered for the Darwin Awards, except for the fact that the driver's attention was taken by her Tamagotchi key ring, which had started beeping urgently for food. In an attempt to save its life, she lost her own.

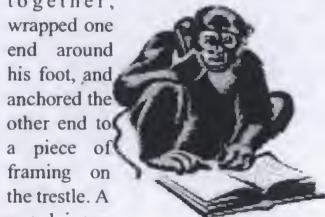
- A 22-year-old resident of Reston, VA was found dead after he tried to use octopus straps to bungee jump off a 70-foot railroad trestle. Fairfax county police said Eric Barcie, a fast food worker, taped a bunch of these straps together, wrapped one end around his foot, and anchored the other end to a piece of framing on the trestle. A police

spokesman said he was alone because his car was parked about 20 feet away. The spokesman also said that Barcie had used more than 70 feet of straps to jump with.

- A man in Alabama died of rattlesnake bites. It seems that he and a friend were playing catch with a balled up, what they believe to be dead, rattlesnake. The friend, no doubt a future Darwin Awards nominee, was hospitalized.

Here are some of our favorites from years past . . .

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SPORTS

Rumblin' 'n' Tumblin' with the Microbes

By Justin Hall

What can I say, soccer is better than wrestling. NOT! For those of you who actually believe this, I am sorry. But, now for the real point of my article: when fall rolls around, everyone is eager to sign up for the Microbe wrestling team. Led by Coaches McBride and Sowell, as well as help from Coaches Jenkins and Silverman, plus the awesome captains Justin Hall and Luke Brown, it was a formula for success.

We started out the year, confused and clumsy, but within two weeks, everyone from John Michael Simpson to Ben Daniel had their moves down. At our first match, MBA vs. BGA, there was a decisive victory, with Regen Jewett winning even after being kicked in the face. It was a great way to start out the season.

At our second match, MBA vs. Harding Academy, we dealt many royal beatings, defeating them 75-6. All our wrestlers had great matches, with Alex Holt putting up a spectacular fight against the HVAC champion in his weight class.

Our third match against Grassland, on their home turf this year, was a tough one. Many matches went

all six minutes, but others, such as Luke Brown's and Justin Hall's matches, were quick MBA victories. Sadly, with one of our starting wrestlers sick that day, we could not pull through in the end.

The next match, against Page Middle School, ended in another Big Red victory. Highlights from this match include the PMS's 135-pounder's puking all over the mat, having several wrestlers undefeated so far, and Justin Hall's making his opponent bleed for many minutes.

The following Saturday, MBA hosted the Microbe dual tournament. We faced several new teams and crushed them all. These teams included BMS, then Mt. Juliet, and NCW, but the team's greatest victory came in the finals against Grassland. The victory, fueled by Justin Hall's pin of a three-time HVAC champion (who was also voted the 2001 HVAC best wrestler), and other pins by Luke Brown, Regen Jewett, Ben Daniel, Will Fitzgerald, John Michael Simpson, and JJ Nagle, was captured. Needless to say, we Microbes felt good.

Even after winning the tournament, we still had another match against Freedom Middle. The Big Red took away all of Freedom's hope. There

were many great matches, but some of our wrestler's first losses came at this match.

Then two days later, the Big Red beat BMS by a margin greater than our score at the tournament. Many of our wrestlers stepped up and had outstanding matches, including Bracey Wilson, who was in for the injured Justin Hall.

Then again the Big Red headed for a tournament, but when all the wrestlers had arrived, Justin Hall was a pound overweight. Through his running, sitting in a hot van, and weighing in naked, Justin made weight, and the team was able to go to Shoney's for breakfast. When all was said and done at the end of the day, your awesome Microbe wrestlers had taken first place. John Michael Simpson and Ben Daniel took first place, and John Michael was voted the Outstanding Wrestler at the tournament. Luke Brown, Will Fitzgerald, Mike Herron, Nathan Deustch, Ben Bellet, and Elliot Nelson all took second, with Justin Hall, Regen Jewett, Rob Phipps, taking third, and William Herbert placing in fourth.

After a restful Sunday, the Microbe team hosted a match against Ensworth, winning by one point because the Ensworth 75-pounder forgot to tape his shoelaces. We had some excellent matches, plus we defeated our rival, Ensworth. Luke Brown got the fastest pin of the entire



Regen, quit smiling!

SPORTS

season at this match, pinning his opponent in eight seconds.

After the wonderful Thanksgiving break, we had a match the Tuesday we came back to school against our other rival, BA. Now, going to BA this year was not as bad as years past because BA had moved their mats to the gym. We had some excellent matches, going either way, but the Big Red was sadly beaten again. We did get a kick out of seeing BA's cheerleaders. This loss would definitely pull the team together for the next match on Thursday.

Sadly, there was no match that Thursday. As fate would have it, the rain flooded Williamson County, and the match was moved to Monday, but this time it was at MBA. We took it to Woodland with a major victory, even without two of our starters.

The very next day, your Microbe team had a match against CPA. We went into it with our heads in the clouds, but once we started making stupid mistakes, we got back in the match. Needless to say, we killed CPA, with Regen Jewett beating a great wrestler for the second time.

And yet again, we had a match the next day, the Wednesday before HVAC. This time, FRA hosted our match. When we arrived in the locker room, we wondered about the mirrors and the yellow floor. After weigh-ins, the team pinned FRA's wrestlers repeatedly, but we lost a few, making the final score 60-24 MBA. This

match was over in under thirty minutes, making it the shortest one all year.

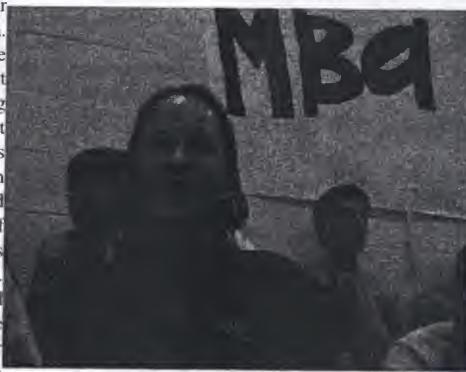
After two days of grueling practice for the starters, Saturday brought the HVAC Championships. This year, the Big Red hosted the championship, and many of our

wrestlers got there at 6:15 A.M. One of our wrestlers did not make weight, but the team still wrestled hard.

Overall, the Microbes had a successful season, with a supportive fan base, too. We had one undefeated wrestler, John Michael Simpson; Justin Hall only had one loss. A big thanks to all the people who contributed to the team, and next year's team looks awesome. *Way to go, Microbes!*

Congratulations

To John Michael Simpson for being undefeated, and having the most wins in one season (21) and To Justin Hall for being undefeated in the HVAC conference and having the most pins (19)



Rob, quit smilin' and go wrestle!

Luke Brown had a tough loss in the second round but came back to take third. We had two HVAC champions

Wrestling Nicknames

Here are the Microbe Wrestling nicknames of our starters in the HVAC.

Weight Class/Name of Wrestler	Place in HVAC
75 John Michael "The Mini Beast" Simpson	1
82 Nathan "Dutch" Deutsch	
88 Ben "The London Bridge" Bellet	
95 Mike "Squirrely" Herron	
100 Justin "Eat that, Kelley Felix" Hall	1
107 Elliot "Justin Owns Me" Nelson	
112 Allie "I mean Rob" Phipps	
120 Regen "I pinned a girl, yet lost to Brooks Tate" Jewett	3
127 William "Huh?" Herbert	
135 JJ "You can't pin me, Holt" Nagle	
145 Alex "It's only a goatee" Holt	
160 Luke "I hate everyone" Brown	3
175 Will "The Shepherd" Fitzgerald	2
HWT Ben "The Beast" Daniel	3
Coach Ed "I wish I could shave like Ben" McBride	
Coach Steve "Silent But Deadly" Sowell	

SPORTS

Whitfield's Wosers to Wowers

By Brendan Kiefer

This year's seventh grade basketball team is starting to show great improvement after their 78-16 victory over USN on January 8th. The team began its season with two days of



Sam Little plays big

practice, facing one of the best teams in the league, BA. The score of that game, well, let's just say it was not fun to watch, but now they have reversed the score against USN to boost morale. The whole team, including several former wrestlers, has worked hard for one goal ever since the first practice: winning. The team also has a star coach, Mr. Whitfield, who strives to make this team into winners. Everyone also needs to congratulate these players because the USN game was

their first home game. The team, consisting of Ben Daniel, Sam Little, Tyler Yarbrough, Dylan Burroughs, Harlan Dodson, Charlie Plageman, Jack Long-Innes, Matthew Kimball, Adam Baker, Drew Andrews, Stockton Beveridge, Charlie Byrge, Treanor Granbery, and David Howe, is improving in all aspects of it's game, so come cheer for the Big Red at their next home game.

Bodie's Big Basketball Boys

By Nick Anand

This year the eighth grade basketball team got off to a disappointing start. With losses to BA, Grassland, Woodland, and Lipscomb, things looked grim, and some of our classmates began to doubt us. With

impressive victories against Harding and USN, fans are returning, and our hopes are rising. McGavock Johnson



Put your right foot in...

has stepped up his game recently, scoring nine consecutive points (eight on lay-ups). Luke Brown, Thomas Sanders, and Daniel Hightower are proving to be a tough trio to guard, much to the delight of coach Marcus Bodie. Joseph Alexander, Nick Anand, Nick Power, and Andrew Wiser are all doing a great job as perimeter threats, and Pierce Weber is constantly giving great effort. Hopefully, when Scott Hearon and Mitchell Williams are off the bench (due to injuries), the team will be ready for the HVAC.

Goals: Few but Meaningful

By Nicholas Marziale

The ol' soccer season was a time of great memories and terrible losses. Despite strong efforts from the entire team and great goal tending on Joseph Alexander's part, we were unable to boast a winning season. Like the Titans', our season's defeats were largely due to bad luck and injuries. Out of many injuries, the one that probably cost us the most was Eric Beiter's foot injury. The injury occurred in practice only one week before our only playoff game, which we lost in overtime by only one point. However, through much effort, the MBA Microbe soccer team was able to overcome many obstacles and make games against significantly better teams close. Maybe next year's Microbe team will not be troubled by bad luck and injuries as much as we were.

ENTERTAINMENT

GameCube or Xbox?

By Tom Abernathy and Matt Turney

Last Christmas, the top rush of the year seemed to be the PlayStation 2. Now, this year there are two systems



GameCube only

competing for the title of "Best Next Generation System." Microsoft is now entering the console gaming market with the highly anticipated Xbox. The Xbox will have the usual features of a "Next Generation" system. It comes with four controllers as opposed to the PS2, a DVD player, great processor (Pentium III), broadband Internet connection, and a bundle of games in CD format. The Xbox will have the same genre of games as computers do, with some others. These others include, strategy, racing, fighting, shoot 'em up bang 'em ups, sports, and RPGs, which is basically the genre of games for all systems, but it will have the feel and style of PC games. Some titles include Halo, Dead or Alive 3, Gotham Racing, Tony Hawk 2X, Shrek, Dave Mirra's Freestyle BMX 2, Odd World: Munch's Odyssey, Unreal Tournament 2, and other game titles

familiar to the PC fan.

The company that has time and time again overcome the competition is developing GameCube. Nintendo has beat the Sega Genesis with the Super Nintendo, the PlayStation with the Nintendo 64, and is now believed to top the Xbox with a wonder machine called GameCube. The GameCube comes with four controllers, a broadband Internet connection, great tech specs, and a bundle of games in mini-disc format. Though the Xbox seems to have the upper hand with a DVD player, it lacks in games. The GameCube is going to have the same great games with replay value and will soon grant your wishes with a DVD player add on, due this spring.

Nintendo is known for making games that never get old.

If you do not like the fact that your game system will be purple, then get a black one. The GameCube is going to have Luigi's Mansion, Star Wars: Rogue Leader, Wave Race: Blue Storm, Eternal Darkness: Sanity's Requiem, Super Smash Bros. Melee (a must buy), Extreme G 3, SSX Tricky, Tony Hawk 3, Star Fox: Dino Planet, Resident Evil, Crazy Taxi, All-Star Baseball 2002, NFL Blitz 20-02, Duke Nukem Forever, Donkey Kong Racing, a Zelda title, Pikmin, and much more!



Xbox only

opinion, so get what appeals to you. We definitely recommend Gamecube.

At the beginning of the sales, GameCube had a huge start, with sales doubling that of the Xbox. Luigi's Mansion also became the fastest-selling premier game for any system. Needless to say, this tradition of Xbox's losing to GameCube will continue.

Overall it comes down to opinion. The Xbox and GameCube are balanced technologically. Where the Xbox fails, GameCube prevails, and vice versa. Nintendo is known for making games that never get old. These include MarioKart, Super Smash Bros., Wave Race, Goldeneye, and Zelda. The Xbox, along with the PlayStation 2, may have some great titles, but they eventually lose replay value. This fact is shown on the PlayStation with great titles such as Metal Gear Solid, the Final Fantasy series, Syphon Filter, Grand Turismo, and Twisted Metal. The GameCube may seem to appeal to younger audiences, while the Xbox appeals to older gamers, but games can be extremely fun without blowing peoples heads off. Nintendo is going to try to appeal to older audiences with titles such as Resident Evil, Eternal Darkness, and Duke Nukem Forever. We took a poll of ten random eighth graders and a couple of upper-classmen via Student Bulletin Board. We got the results of 60% GameCube and 40% Xbox.

It all comes down to opinion, so get what appeals to you. We definitely recommend Gamecube.

ENTERTAINMENT

Genocide: The Elimination of Good Music

By Justin Hall

No, a race of people has not been eliminated. A decade of good music was eliminated. Basically, good music is, for the most part, dead. Popular music today consists of no real artists/bands. Take Britney Spears for example. We all know she is a very fine, attractive young woman, who makes great music

videos (simply by being in them), but she cannot, never has, and never will be able to sing. There are also types of groups like *NSync, who are able to sing really well but do not play their

own instruments; however, for the very few recent groups/artists who play their own instruments, write their own songs, and manage to sound good live I applaud them (a.k.a. Blink 182, Weezer, Phish, Green Day, Dave Matthews Band, Edwin McCain).

Now, groups such as Pink Floyd, The Beatles, Eric Clapton (and all bands associated with his name), The Jimi Hendrix Experience, The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, and Led Zeppelin all sounded the same live as on their records. Sometimes even better. These groups were great songwriters, musicians, and performers.



Pink Floyd: good in any decade

For example, let's look at Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here." It is one of the greatest songs ever written, and Pink Floyd performed it just as well live as they did in the studio. The Jimi Hendrix Experience was another group who wrote excellent (even though drug-influenced) music, such as "Little Wing." When Jimi started to jam on his guitar during a live performance, it was certainly a memorable experience for all in attendance. And I must not forget The Beatles who had a total of 27 hits. That was great music during the 60s

and 70s and continues to be great music today.

The 80s. What is there to say? The first generation to almost kill good music? I think that

is an accurate statement. Live performances started to get worse and worse, along with the music. All the techno, all the bad hair bands (Bon Jovi), and all the really short shorts combined together made the 80s a musical generation most would like to forget. Michael Jackson emerged in this era of music and was a great singer and dancer but did not play his own instruments. Groups like Van Halen, Aerosmith, Metallica, and Guns 'N' Roses were the few saviors of the 80s. With the good music, lyrics, and not bad live performances, they swept the decade. They also took full advantage

of the music video technology available, making some of the greatest music videos ever. In the video for "November Rain" by Guns 'N' Roses, the story told is unforgettable; thus, these bands turned the 80s from one of the worst decades imaginable to bearable.

The 90s. They started out trying not to repeat what had happened in the 80s. Therefore, Nirvana emerged, creating a whole new genre of music. They inspired the grunge revolution, which many bands were involved in. After Kurt Cobain's death, the

A decade of good music was eliminated.

revolution was hit extremely hard, and grunge took a back seat in the popular music wave. A few bands made their first appearances in the 90s, such as Green Day, and made it big. There were really no new revolutionary bands. And then "pop" hit our generation in the face. Everywhere you listened, bands like *NSync, Backstreet Boys, Christina Aguilera, Shaggy, and Hanson (yes, you remember "MMMBop") were being played. Now there were some memorable songs, but most of it was just plain nonsense. A few good punk bands were created, and the 90s through the present has remained the same.

I will be the first to admit that some good music is written today, but it must be looked for. And I mean looked for extensively. With this new decade, hopefully some bands will get the picture and go back to the good music. I leave you with the question, "What will happen to music in the age of technology?"

THE DAILY HAROLD

What Happened to Michael Jordan!

By Harold Simmons

The Washington Wizards have not had a significant season since 1997, when they were swept by the Chicago Bulls (with Michael Jordan) in the playoffs. Their largest winning streak that season was six games, but because of the arrival of Michael Jordan, the Wizards now have a nine-game winning streak and a possible opportunity to make the playoffs. They are the fifth-ranked team in the Eastern Conference. Was this drastic

change caused by Michael Jordan's skill and experience? Yes! M.J. has proved his excellence by winning the games in which he was guarded by Allen Iverson, Tracy McGrady, Vince Carter, and several other NBA stars. However, M.J. has proved to have bad games: when he only



scored six points against the Indiana Pacers, but he always atones for it: when he scored fifty-one points the following week. Michael Jordan is ranked eighth in the league for points per game. He averages 24.6 points per game. Can the Wizards make the playoffs and even compete in the championship? Well, their performance against the two-year defending champs, the L.A. Lakers (Tues., Feb. 12), will decide their fate. So, as the Wizards race for the title, just remember that it is all because of Michael Jordan!

Harold Speaks at Camp CeCe Benefit

By Harold Simmons

Since the summer of 1999, I, Harold Simmons, have attended Camp CeCe. Camp CeCe is a two-week day camp founded by the gospel singer, CeCe Winans. The camp is in partnership with the outdoor YMCA facility, Camp Widjiwagan. I was accepted to this camp despite the large number of children who wanted to attend. Since then, I have enjoyed this experience for three consecutive summers. Several camp activities include archery, banana boat, fishing, basketball, drama, dancing, and much more.

That's not all. In 1999, the first year of the camp, CeCe Winans asked me to speak at her celebration gala about my camp experience. Of course I was excited at this wonderful opportunity; therefore, I wrote a speech explaining all the

activities I had the privilege of participating in.

The story isn't over yet. In 2000, I was asked by CeCe Winans again to speak for her, except this time I would appear on national television. The interview was featured on TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network).

I don't think so. The story isn't over now either. This year, a man who worked for Contemporary Christian Magazine interviewed me about my entire Camp CeCe experience. (I can't remember the man's name.) He interviewed me about Camp CeCe, the celebration gala, and even what career I wished to pursue when I got older. The article was titled "Camp CeCe and the Boy Who Would Be President."

And that's my story about the many blessings God has given me while attending Camp CeCe. I never thought that this camp would bring me the three best years of my life.



My opportunity at Camp CeCe has brought me memories I will cherish for the rest of my life. I am truly blessed, and I hope to attend Camp CeCe for many years to come.

"I would personally like to express my thanks to CeCe Winans for the great opportunity she has given to several children in the summer. Hundreds of children of numerous different ethnic backgrounds and races have been given the chance to attend this camp. Because of CeCe, children have built lasting friendships. May God bless her and keep her organization prosperous."

CONGRATULATIONS

I Like Maps . . .

By Eric Hagemeyer

It all started when I was six



Oh Yeah!

years old. I was on vacation with my family in Los Angeles, and we were eating dinner one night when I started to get bored. Thus, I started to draw flags with the crayons that they had so graciously provided me. (Hey, I was six.) Well, it escalated from there into an unquenchable desire to learn about flags, and from there, the countries themselves. I loved to learn about different countries and their cultures. My free time was mostly spent learning about world geography until school got important. There soon came a time when my knowledge of flags was obsolete, and it really hindered me from learning much more. At some point, I decided that geography was pointless because no one needed to know all that much. Until my day arrived . . .

I was lucky to find that I remembered the capital of Burkina Faso, Ougadougou, along with the rest of my catalog of geography facts once

the Geography Bee started in December. I had elected not to participate when I was a timid seventh grader for fear of the rumored "hard questions." So, being an eighth grader, I decided there was no better time than now to go for it because my eligibility would be out if I did not do it. I am not going to lie to you; there were tough opponents.

For me I had a balee contenders, such as Nick Power, Kevin Seitz, Justin Hall, Derek Pitman, and David Reynolds made my life difficult at several points. In short, it was a close race. The final round came down to me versus the powerhouse of David Reynolds, and the last question was a veritable barn-burner:

In 2001, to which country was the former Portuguese colony of Macao returned to?

The answer, to my liking, was China. The entire competition had been electric with lead changes striking at any moment. I have not mentioned seventh grade contenders yet, even though they also were very knowledgeable. Mr. Russ congratulated me and informed me of the test I was to take in order to be eligible for state. Afterwards people asked me how I knew the answer to this seemingly impossible question. Well, during my studies, I was fascinated by the more obscure locations on the globe, and Macao just happened to be one of the places I took note of. (To be honest, I had no idea that it had been returned to China.) I have taken the qualifying test, and it was difficult, but I am somewhat confident of my selection for state. I like maps.

... We Like Math

The students taking the AMC math exam did a wonderful job this year.

Since it is one of the hardest standardized tests the students take, outstanding performers deserve recognition. Congratulations to these young men for doing so well.

Kevin Seitz - First at MBA with a score of 23 out of a possible 25

David Wheeler - Second at MBA with a score of 22

Eric Beiter - Third at MBA with a score of 21

Read Ezell

Joseph Steakley

David Syverud

Mitchell Williams

Wheat Hotchkiss

Will Proffitt

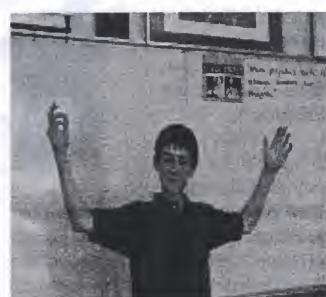
Nathan Sears - Highest placing seventh grader at MBA with a score of 19

Chase Altenbern

Will Camarata

Kyle Davis

Chet Gormley



Master of his Domain

HUMOR

Stephen Wright: Simply Funny

Compiled by Eric Hagemeyer

Stephen Wright is a comedian I discovered this summer on Comedy Central. You may remember him from the movies *Canadian Bacon* and *Half-Baked*.

- I broke a mirror in my house the other day. That's seven years bad luck. But I talked to my lawyer and I think he can get me five.

- I woke up this morning and tried to fold my bed back into the wall, but nearly broke both my arms because it isn't one of those kinds of beds.

Curiosity killed the cat, but for a while, I was a suspect.

- Sometimes I like to inconvenience the sales people at department stores. "May I help you sir?"

"Yes, do you have anything I would like?"

- 24 hour banking? I don't have time for

that.

- I used to have a quicksand box when I was a kid. I was an only child, eventually.

- When I die, I'm donating my body to science... fiction.

- I hate it when my foot falls asleep because I know it's going to be up all night.

- Once I saw a man with wooden legs and real feet.

- I used to be a narrator for bad mimes.

- Furthermore, if you shoot a mime, should you use a silencer?

- Curiosity killed the cat, but for a while, I was a suspect.

- It doesn't matter what temperature a room is, it's always room temperature.

- I recently installed a skylight in my roof. The people who live upstairs are furious.

- My girlfriend and I have conflicting views on life. I'm not really into meditating, and she's not really into being alive.



- I've heard rumors that if you listen to something while you sleep, you'll memorize it. Well, the tape skipped during the night so now I can only stutter in Spanish.

- I have a rare photograph of Norman Rockwell beating up a child.

- The first time I read the dictionary I thought it was a poem about everything.

- Once I went to a drive-in movie in a cab. It cost me 95 dollars.

- I like to fill my tub up with water then turn on the shower so it feels like I'm in a submarine that's been hit.

- I'm having amnesia and déjà-vu at the same time.

- I live on a one-way dead-end street. I don't know how I got there...

- When I first moved into my apartment, I found a light switch on the wall that apparently didn't control anything in the entire building. Three months later I got a letter from a woman in Germany saying, "cut it out!"

- I was up late last night playing poker with tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died.

- One year for Christmas my father gave me a box of broken glass, and he gave my brother a box of band-aids, and he said, "now, you two share."

ET CETERA

Theron and Miller's New York Adventure

By Theron Spiegel and Miller Sherrill

Miller and I (Theron) one Saturday were innocently trying to go to NY on the subway but ended up doing interviews of Subway people. We met two interesting and helpful cashiers along the way. At the first Subway, we asked for 5 tokens and when the next train to uptown was. We only needed to get on the next train to uptown. Instead, the man told us that the nearest Subway system was in Boston.

Theron: Absurd! That is bogus publicity.

He then asked us if we were spies for Jersey Mike's.

Miller: No, Jersey Mike's is stupid! Their name doesn't even suggest that they know where the nearest subway station is!

Subway Man: Well, there's no subway here.

Theron: Oh, well I still say that's false advertising, but I guess we can walk to NY. Do you know where Jared is? We need to ask him some questions.

SM: Nope, Jared lost so much weight he floated into space.

Theron: Are we here on the map. If not, where are we?

SM: Does it look like that outside?

Theron: Yes it does! Thank you very

much! The subway didn't give us many answers, and we were pretty disappointed, but as we went out, Theron swore he saw Jared in space.

The next Subway was a different story. When questioned about the subway system, this subway man smiled and giggled cluelessly.

Theron: We need 5 tokens to get to uptown.

SM: What would you like?



To protect the Subway man #2's privacy, we decided to edit his face.

picture?

SM: Yes. That is a good picture.

Miller: So can you tell us how to get to the subway?

SM: What?

Miller: You know. The subway.

Theron then began to, for some reason, perform a completely pointless dance.

SM:(giggling) Oh. The subway is in the next building over.

Theron:(while dancing) Oh. It's next door?

SM:(still giggling) Yes.

Miller and Theron: Where's Jared?

SM: He's in New York (pronounced Nyerk).

Miller: What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho Cheese! (Theron told Miller this)

Miller and Theron: Thank you!

Theron: We're going next door to get on the subway!

man



My prettiful picture

Miller: And remember! Cheese that isn't yours is Nacho Cheese!

And so the brave reporters Theron and Miller left the 2nd false subway station and went to the next building over, to the next possible subway station, to Wal-Mart!

DARWIN AWARDS Continued

- In France, Jacques LeFevrier left nothing to chance when he decided to commit suicide. He stood atop a sheer cliff and tied a noose around his neck. He tied the other end of the rope to a large rock. He drank some poison and set his clothes on fire. He even had a gun with him. He jumped off and fired the pistol. While still falling, he missed his head completely and shot through the rope above. Since he was freed from the rope, he fell into the sea. The severe dunking extinguished the flames, and swallowing sea water caused him to regurgitate the poison. He was dragged out of the water by a kind fisherman and taken to a hospital, where he died of hypothermia.

- Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnejt did not put enough postage on a letter bomb. When it came back marked "return to sender," he opened the package and was blown to pieces.



Full moon for Harlan

ET CETERA

Top Three Most Common Names in the Junior School

Will Earthman (7)

Will Barge (8)

Will Camarata (8)

Will Fitzgerald (8)

Will Harris (8)

Will Proffitt (8)

Will Whitson (8)

David Bolus (7)

David Carlson (7)

David Howe (7)

David Buttery (8)

David Downing (8)

David Reynolds (8)

David Syverud (8)

David Wheeler (8)

Michael Anderson (7)

Michael Crum (8)

Michael Marks (8)

Michael Pierce (8)

Michael Schuller (8)

Michael Schumacher (8)

2002: The Year of the Palindrome

Compiled by Kevin Seitz and Tommy Corts

Yawn a more Roman way.

Race car.

A man, a plan, and a canal Panama.

Madam, I'm Adam.

O, stone, be not so.

A Santa spots tops at NASA.

A car, a man a maraca.

Sit on a potato pan, Otis.

Draw pupil's lip upward.

Dumb mud.

Cigar? Toss it in a can; it is so tragic

Too bad, I hid a boot.

Are we not drawn onward, we few

drawn onward to new era.

A Toyota! Race fast safe car. A

Toyota!

Was it Elliot's toilet I saw?

If I had a hi-fi.

Flee to me, remote elf.

Dennis and Edna sinned.

Vanna, wanna V?

Go deliver a dare, vile dog.

Never odd or even.

Tips spill, lips spit.

Rats live on no evil star.

Devil never even lived.

Enough already?

So, Ida. Adios.

Do geese see God?

Wonton? Not now.

A dog, a plan, a canal Pagoda.

And even:

A man, a plan, a cat, a ham, a yak, a

yam, a hat, a canal Panama.

Hannah.

Anna.

Mr. Owl ate my metal worm.

I love me, vol. I.

7th Grade Homeroom Presidents and Service Representatives

Advisor

Ashworth

Bourland

Brown

Marro

Popovich

Steele

Wims

Homeroom President

Patrick Manning

John Michael Simpson

Sam Little

Tipper Austin

Miller Bundy

Pratrick Quinn

Chase Altenbern

Service Representative

Everitte Barbee

Miller Sherrill

Matt Crook

Drew Andrews

Stockton Beveridge

Bill Eakin

Reuben Green

BACK PAGE

Announcing The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest (for the Seventh and Eighth grades)

Categories: Poetry and Fiction

Prizes:

1st Place - \$50
2nd Place - \$35
3rd Place - \$10

Please turn in all entries
with a hard copy and on
a disk to Mrs. Bourland
by March 30, 2002.

Top Ten Signs the Apocalypse has Arrived

By Justin Hall and John Fay

- 10) Jim Witherspoon doesn't break some bone in his body doing sports.
- 9) Winnie the Pooh beats up an MBA student.
- 8) Buck Curly gets an attractive girlfriend (we mean non-inflatable).
- 7) All of Mr. Thurmond's math class is passing.
- 6) Mrs. Frank's 7th period Latin class doesn't get off the subject.
- 5) Nathan Steakley does not try to get Mr. Whitfield off the subject.
- 4) Mr. Popovich is wrong about anything.
- 3) Mrs. Christeson makes a mistake.
- 2) Kyle Davis makes below a 99.
- 1) MBA cancels school due to snow.

That's Magical- A Top Nine List?

*A Parkes and August Production
(With spiritual backing from Kiki,
August's cat)*

9. The fact that this is a top nine list
9. Jerry Garcia
8. Curly fries
7. Trying to imagine a color that you have never seen
8. The fact that even though we are supposed to be counting down from 9, the 8 is after 7-curly fries
5. Your eyelids, which are only about an inch in diameter, they are the largest things you will ever see; they cover your entire visible world
4. Voodoo math
3. Bee stings - they're not really that trippy, just painful
- 4? Don King's hair
3. A world without yourself
2. A world without Ethel Merman
6. Subliminal messages
5. The word "xerox"
4. Hermits
11. Ma and Pa restaurants
2. Puff the Magic Dragon, by Peter, Paul, and Mary
1. What we did with the second number eight
1. Shoulders - (we got this one from randomly flipping through Mary Stewart's, *The Last Enchantment*)
1. Pee Wee Herman
1. The guy who played Pee Wee Herman

Thought of the Day

“Less is more, more or less.”

TOP OF THE HILL STAFF:

Editor-In-Chief	Justin Hall
Production Manager	Michael Schuler
Assistant Production Manager	John Lee
Features	Kevin Seitz
Sports	Eric Hagemeyer
Photographer	Jimmy Flanagan
Entertainment	Tommy Corts
Faculty Advisors	Mrs. Bourland Mrs. Pettus